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THIRD REPORT

OF THE

BRADFORD QUARTERLY

CONFERENCE

OF THE

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST,

OF

LATTER DAY SAINTS,

HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM, SOUTH MARKET, LEEDS,

NOV. 8th and 9th, 1851.

BRADFORD:

J. DRAKE, PRINTER & BOOKBINDER, NORTHGATE.

REPORT.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 8th, and Sunday, Nov. 9th, the Bradford Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was held in the Latter Day Saints Meeting Room, South Market, Leeds.

On Saturday evening the meeting was opened at half-past seven o'clock by singing the hymn commencing "Ye Elders of Israel come join now with me;" prayer by Elder Galloway, from the Hull Conference.

Resolved—That Elder Robert O. Menzies preside over this meeting of Conference, and that Elder Jonathan Midgley be the Clerk.

The President made a few introductory remarks, in which he showed that much depends upon the Presidents of Branches in carrying out the propostitions of the Conference, and exhorted them to carry out, zealously, the resolutions that would be passed that evening and on the following day.

The representations of the branches composing the Conference, with a few exceptions, were read by the various Presidents, and presented to the Clerk, in writing, as may be seen on the table.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE OF THE NUMBERS AND STANDING OF EACH BRANCH IN THE BRADFORD CONFERENCE.

No.	Names of Branches.	Names of Presidents.	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Members	Total.	Baptized.	Recd. in	Recd. out	Remd. to	Remd. out	Scattered	Cut off.	Dead.	Amount due for books to the General Agents			Donations to the Perpetual Emigration Fund.		
																	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1	Bradford	Milnes	18	20	21	5	252	316	15	4	9	14	2		10	3				1	15	6
2	Leeds	Horton	8	14	9	3	178	312	20	1					2		10	0	5½	7	11	2½
3	Idle	Watson	3	5	2	1	25	36		2		7		3	1	2		11	4½			
4	Huddersfield	Mosley	3	5	4	2	13	27	3									8	0			
5	Halifax	Hartley	5	3	2	1	18	29	4		3		2	1	2						17	5
6	Wakefield	Hartley	9	9	4	1	56	79	8	20		1	1	1	2		5	8	11½	1	2	0
7	Rodley	O'Brien	2	2			4	7														
8	Drighlington	Hepworth	1	1			12	14														
9	York	Heaton	2	3		1	16	22					2	10	7		3	4	4			
10	Tadcaster	Spink	1			1	4	5	2			1									3	0
11	Horsforth	Hillam	1	1			5	7	1													
12	Clayton	Child	2		1	1	8	12	1			1					1	6	3½			
13	Bingley	Lord	2	1	1		8	12							1		1	9	0		5	6
14	Wilsden	Wade	1	1			9	11				1			2	1						
15	Wheldrake	Beilby	1	1			12	14	4					1	1							
16	Ellerton	Young	1	2	2		14	19								1						
17	Otley	Brear		2			11	13	5													
18	Knaresbro'	Newton	1				7	8	5								1	5	3½			
19	Queen's Head	Noble	1		1		9	10	4													
			62	70	47	16	661	853	72	27	12	25	7	16	28	7						

The following nominations and alterations were then made:—

Leeds Branch.—Resolved—That Benjamin Beevers, Priest, receive the office of Elder.

Halifax Branch.—Resolved—That Richard Walker, Teacher, and Henry Hodgson, receive the office of Priest, and that Jonas Hodgson receive the office of Teacher.

Horsforth Branch.—Resolved—That John Hill receive the office of Teacher.

Wilsden Branch.—Resolved—That Jonathan Heaton, sen., receive the office of Teacher.

Ellerton Branch.—Resolved—That Edward Martin Allison receive the office of Deacon.

Knaresbro' Branch.—Resolved—That Richard Clark receive the office of Priest, that William Wade receive the office of Teacher, and that John Newsom receive the office of Deacon.

Queen's Head Branch.—Resolved—That Jonas Kershaw receive the office of Priest, and that John Barker receive the office of Deacon.

Elder Menzies then stated that, some time since the Warmfield Branch was united with the Wakefield Branch on account of its principal officers and members removing to Wakefield; he now wished to know if the Conference would sanction what he had done: it was then

Resolved—That tbis Conference sanction the union of the Warmfield and Wakefield Branches.

Elder Midgley rose and said that he had been travelling in and ahont Wakefield more than twelve months, and the greater part of that time had been the President of that Branch. When he went there, only two Elders were in the Branch; since that time, the Heath Common and Warmfield Branches, which contained three Elders, have heen united with the Wakefield Branch; also, three more Elders have been received from other branches, so that now that branch contains nine Elders. When he went to labour there, a spirit of division, a party spirit existed, and still exists to a considerable extent. His counsels and instructions have not been appreciated by a majority of that branch, at the same time they were better than when he went at first, and seemed to be just ready to be put right. The state of things being represented by Elder Midgley as consisting of various parties, one for him, one for another, and one for a third person, &c.; the Conference deemed it wise to remove him and appoint an Elder of their own choice, residing among them, to preside and to appoint Elder Midgley to labour elsewhere, then we should find if they would respect the decision of the Conference, seeing that they could not be controlled by other means, and thus pnt an end to party spirit.

Resolved—That Elder Charles Hartley be appointed to preside over the Wakefield Branch, and that Elder Midgley be releascd from that responsihility.

The President expressed his desirc for the Conference to accept of Elder Midgley to travel throughout this Conference nnder his directions, and not to be confined to one place: and further said, "wherever he travels, let it be nnderstood, that where he is I am; becanse I have found him willing to seek and to act in nnison with my feelings, and ready to carry ont my measnres, and helieve that he will continue to do so; and I wish it to he understood, that the Saints will carry out his counsels tbe same as mine, and not only

his, hut all the travelling Elders. I have the utmost confidence in them, and desire the Saints should have the same, and listen to their iustructions and counsels, that tbey may he mutually hlessed."

Resolved—That Elder Midgley he upheld and sustained by this Conference to travel and labour therein, under the directions of the President.

That Elder William Heaton may the more efficiently lahour in and ahout York. It was resolved, that he continue to preside over the York Branch, and that hc cease to have a charge over the Weldrake and Ellerton Branches.

By the President, Elder Henry Hartley had been appointed to preside over the Halifax Branch, and he now desired the approval of the Conference, it was then

Resolved—That this Conference sanction the appointment of Elder Hartley to preside over that Branch, and also that he continue to lahour in that region of country, hut cease to labour in and about Huddersfield.

Resolved—That Elder William Burton continue to lahour in and ahout Ripon and surrounding country.

Elder Menzies then stated that there is a good field for a man to labour in surrounding Huddersfield, Slaithwaite Hall, &c., and he thought, as Elder John Peel, of Bradford, has heen some time and is still out of employment, that if he could make up his mind to go there, he would find it so; he is a man of considcrable experience and age, and that will suit the people in that quarter. Elder Peel, having signified his willingness to go, it was

Resolved—That he lahour in and about Huddersfield, Slaithwaite Hall, and surrounding country, preach wherever he can get the privilege, aud counsel the President and saints of the Huddersfield hranch as he may he led hy the spirit of God, until he can ohtain employment, or shall be appointed to lahour elsewhere.

The President introduced the subject of fasting to the meeting, and desired to know if the Conference shall continue to ohserve the first Sunday in each month as a day of fasting and prayer. He spoke his mind freely in favour of fasting, and felt convinced, that if the saints could only see things in their true light, they would value their fastings more than their money. He said that he valued the fasting, and wanted to see the saints prove what they are willing to do in this respect for the furtberance of this work. He wanted to see the saints make a real sacrifice for its good, that it may he a testimony unto the Lord of their willingness not only to do but to suffer for his work's sake. Several of the Elders expressed their willingness that the fasting shonld he continued, and testified that they had received good both to their bodies and minds through it. From the testimony of Presidents of hranches, it was evident, that the saints generally had not attended to the fast, that they have not properly appreciated it, and that still they do not, but look upon it as a hurden imposed upon them which it is unnecessary for them to hear. This being the prevailing feeling in the Conference, it was deemed wise, for the well-being of those who are weak, not to require the saints to continue the fast monthly as hefore.

That the Travelling Elders may be sufficiently supplied with tracts, and may have a little money, as a fund to enable them to take a room occasionally, purchase a few placards, &c., it was

Resolved—That this Conference appoint one Sunday in a quarter to fasting and prayer for the success of the Travelling Elders iu this Confer-

ence, and that the proceeds of the fast constitute a fund for the purpose stated above; the monies to be sent to Brother Edward Milnes, Bower street, Bradford, as before. Also,

Resolved—That the next fast-day be on the first Sabbath in the new year, January 4th, 1852, that the time of fasting be from Saturday night.

The President requested that a fund may continue to be raised in each branch, for the purchasing of tracts to be circulated in connection with each branch. The Presidents and Councils are to adopt such measures for the accomplishing of this object as they shall find most suitable, and, on the days appointed to take up collections for this purpose, either to fast or otherwise as they shall judge, will be most beneficial to the saints, and most pleasing unto the Lord.

The President expressed his desire that all the branches in the conference should begin and continue to keep proper record of all Baptisms, Confirmations, Ordinations, Births, Blessing of Children, Marriages, &c., and stated that there is not a branch in the Conference, scarcely, that keeps proper records. He stated that Elder Marsden tried to keep a conference record, but was unable to do so because the branches did not keep proper ones, but, that if he had remained here it was his intention to have this desirable, this necessary, object accomplished. He wished one plan to be adopted by every Branch in the Conference. He said he knew that it would take a good twelvemonth's work to get the records in this Conference into a proper state. He read a form of record he wished to be instituted and established in all the branches, which had been brought from the land of Zion, by President F. D. Richards, and by him instituted in Scotland. He requested the Presidents of branches to say whether or not they would begin to carry out these things in all the branches. The brethren saw clearly the importance of these things, consequently it was

Resolved—That we carry out this order of records in every branch in the conference.

Resolved—That Elder Midgley keep the Conference Records.

Resolved—That there be a collection taken up on Sunday, at the close of each meeting, and that the money received be disposed of as the President, Elder Horton, and the Deacons of the Leeds branch, shall consider necessary and wise, reserving the principle portion to help Elder Burton to get some clothing.

Resolved—That 200 Conference Reports be printed, and that each officer have one. Before time 300 have been printed, but it is too many, and has left many unsold in the agents' hands.

Resolved—That we get a few thousands of tract backs printed for the use of the Conference, and that they lay in brother Taylor's hands, and be sold to the branches at the prime cost.

The meeting was dismissed with thanksgiving, by the President, at about eleven o'clock.

SUNDAY.

On Sunday morning, November 9th, the meeting was opened at twenty to eleven, a. m., by singing. Prayer by Elder Levi Richards.

The clerk having read the representations of the various branches, an unanimous vote of confidence was taken in all the authorities of the Church, as follows:

Resolved—That we uphold and sustain Brigham Young as the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in all the world, and Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as his councillors.

Resolved—That we sustain the twelve apostles, namely, Orson Hyde, P. P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles K. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards, with Orson Hyde as their President, as the Travelling High Council in all the world.

Resolved—That we sustain Franklin D. Richards as the President of the British Isles, and G. B. Wallace and Levi Richards as his Councillors.

Resolved—That we uphold and sustain Robert O. Menzies as the President of this Conference, by our faith, prayers, and every thing that is necessary.

Resolved—That we sustain all the officers in their places, according to their appointments: the presiding Bishop, and the bishopric; the High Council in Zion; the Patriarchs, and all in authority in the Church.

Resolved—That we sustain the various Presidents of branches throughout this Conference, by our faith, prayers, and confidence.

The resolutions passed on the Saturday evening were then presented to the meeting and passed unanimously.

Elder Joseph Bland, of Bradford, who had been labouring in the country about Malton, rose and stated his prospects in that region, and, being willing to continue labouring, it was

Resolved—That he continue to labour where he has been before.

Brother Feirburn, of Leeds, had been labouring in and about Pocklington, Market Weighton, and other places. It was with difficulty that he had got along, and now is unable to obtain places to preach in, on account of the barns being full; when they are empty, he can have them to preach in. He appeared desirous to have the privilege of staying at home about two months, and then being permitted to go there again.

Resolved—That this Conference grant brother Feirburn his request.

Two other brethren, John Brough and Henry Hodgson, had been out labouring a short time, but had returned. The President did not know brother Hodgson's reasons for returning, but stated, that brother Brough felt that he would like a little more experience, that he would stay at home during the winter, but, perhaps, go out again when the winter is over.

The President, speaking of the Travelling Elders who are continuing to labour, said, "I feel satisfied with these brethren. I am glad to see that they are willing to remain out and do good in the winter season as well as in the other seasons. I believe they are first-rate fellows, all of them."

The President had thought of cutting off the Whitby branch, with the exception of four Members, who desire to be Saints. This branch has got into a very dark, disorderly state, which was the cause of him purposing to take this step. It was agreed not to cut off the whole branch, but to call these four scattered Members belonging to the York branch, and still extend mercy to the rest, that they might have the privilege of claiming their standing if they choose.

The meeting was closed with singing and thanksgiving, by Elder Milnes, at a quarter past twelve o'clock, p.m.

AFTERNOON.

At Two o'Clock, P. M., the meeting was opened by Singing. Prayer by Elder Milnes. The question "Who has a right to re-baptize?" had been put to the President. In answer to which, he made the following observations. "I do not like to see my brethren every now and then coming forward to be re-baptized without having a definite motive in view. As Brother Richards is here, he will be able to give us counsel about this matter. I would say to the brethren, that there ought to be no person re-baptized without making it known to the President of the branch. If he sees that it is necessary for them to be re-baptized, then any Elder or Priest may re-baptize them."

Dr. Richards remarked, "With regard to this thing, I approve of the remarks that Elder Menzies has made, with this addition, I think it will be well for the Presidents of Branches to consult with the President of the Conference before it be attended to. It might sometimes be more proper to cut off the individual who wants to be re-baptized, than to re-baptize him. If every one does right, and acts right in all things, you will not need re-baptism oftens; 'for keeping the commandments of God bringeth remission of sins.' Every time you pray, and every time you partake of the sacrament, you ought to do so with similar feelings as if you were going to be re-baptized."

The President remarked again, not only with re-baptism, but with baptisms; also, we ought to be careful and not baptize any, unless they understand and believe in this work. Now it is every person's duty to be cautious in this matter, and see that the people rightly understand the ordinance which they are going to attend to. We are culpable if we suffer persons to come into the Church by baptism, who do not understand and believe in the first principles of the doctrine of this Church. I would say that the most judicious way is to let the baptisms proceed through the President of the Branch.

Short addresses were delivered by Elders Midgley, Heaton, Burton, and Hartley, expressive of their faith in, and knowledge of this work, and willingness to continue to labour according to their abilities, in their several spheres, imploring the saints to uphold and sustain them by their faith and prayers, that they may be humble and faithful unto the end.

The state of the books of the General Book and Star Agent, and of the books of the Secretary and Treasurer for the Perpetual Emigration Fund, as given by the Auditors, Joseph Bean and Thomas Hanson, is as follows:

DR.	£.	s.	d.
Indebted the Office last Quarter	54	13	6½
To Books, &c. from the Office this Quarter	86	2	10
Total	140	16	7½
Paid in Cash at different times	65	0	0
Indebted to the Office	75	16	7½

CR.	£.	s.	d.
The Amount due from the Branches, Travelling Elders, and different Members	36	13	9 4
Stock on hand	42	17	4
Total	79	11	1
Indebted to the Office	75	16	7½
To Balance for Br. Taylor	3	14	5½

	£.	s.	d.
The following sums have been received from the various branches towards the Perpetual Emigration Fund	11	14	4½
Left on hand when audited the last time	0	18	0
Total	12	12	4½
Paid to Br. Beecroft, and sent by him to the Office at Liverpool	12	3	5
The Treasurer Barker Child, on hand	0	8	8½

Resolved—That we sustain John Taylor as the General Book and Star Agent for this Conference, and Joseph Beecroft as Treasurer, and Barker Child as Secretary for the Perpetual Emigration Fund.

The Idle, Bingley, and Queen's Head branches did not send in a note to the General Book Agent. It is requested this he more punctually attended to for the future, one week before the Conference.

The President requested those branches that have paid nothing to the Perpetual Emigration Fund to do so immediately.

The number of officers present were—1 High Priest, 42 Elders, 34 Priests, 27 Teachers, and 8 Deacons.

Dr. Richards speaking on the subject of keeping records, said, "It is the business of the President of each branch to have a correct record kept. There is not a thing done but that it is necessary for it to be recorded. I have been in councils where business has been transacted two or four weeks and no record kept. When a record of the business transacted was required it could not be got. The Clerk rose and told what was done, but another person rose and contradicted him. This could not be the case if proper records of all business transactions were kept. A record should be kept so correctly, so clearly, that you may know what is meant by what is said. The time is not far distant when you will wish that a correct record had been kept of all business transacted by you in the name of Jesus Christ. If the records in heaven are to correspond with the records on earth, how all important it is for proper records to be kept on earth.

At half-past four o'clock the meeting was dismissed with thanksgiving by the President.

EVENING.

At a quarter to six o'clock, p. m., the meeting was opened in the usual manner, and appropriate, stirring addresses were delivered on the subjects of "Immediate Revelation," and "The Priesthood," by Elder Gallaway, from the Hull Conference, and Dr. Richards.

A Collection was taken up at the close of each meeting.

Throughout the day an unanimity of feeling prevailed. The Spirit of God was enjoyed by many, and we anticipate that great prosperity will attend our labours in this Conference in coming time, and we hope to witness a little of it in this quarter.

Resolved—That this Conference adjourn to meet again, at Bradford, on Saturday, February 7th, 1852, at seven o'clock, p. m.

The meeting was closed at about a quarter past nine o'clock, with singing and thanksgiving, by the President.

ROBERT O. MENZIES, PRESIDENT,
JONATHAN MIDGLEY, SECRETARY.

NOTE

Elder Menzies, will order Record Books for all the Branches that need them, so that they may be done by one person, and in one style, and also be had cheaper.

He will also, with the help of Elder Midgley, render every assistance possible to the Clerks of Branches in putting their records in order.

Every Branch must immediately appoint a Branch Clerk.

R. O. M.

J. DRAKE, PRINTER, BRADFORD.